

## **Abstract**

**[0020]** A method and apparatus for detecting a presence of a fail over switch is described. In one embodiment, during an Serial ATA sequence initialization handshake, a host transmits a COMRESET to a device. In return, the host receives a COMWAKE from the device. If the host is of a first type of host, then the host identifies a presence of a fail over switch, in response to receipt of the COMWAKE. If the host is of a second type of host, then the host ignores the COMWAKE. The host then receives a COMINIT from the device, in accordance with the Serial ATA sequence handshake. The host transmits a COMWAKE to the device, and the host receives a COMWAKE in return from the device.